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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 08024 101230Z

44
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
---------- 086789
R 092230Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4700
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 8024

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR OAS CU CO
SUBJ: CUBAN SANCTIONS

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ ON OTHER SUBJECTS TODAY, HE RAISED CUBAN ISSUE AND ASKED WHERE THINGS STOOD. I REPEATED OUR VIEWS RE THE COLOMBIAN/COSTA RICAN INITIATIVE PER STATE 192468. LOPEZ SAID THAT HE HAD ASKED THAT THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF FACIO'S VISIT HERE CONTAIN A STATEMENT THAT THE ACTION TAKEN WAS NOT TO BE CONSTRUED AS AN INVITATION TO CASTRO TO REJOIN THE OAS; THAT IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT CASTRO DID NOT WANT TO REJOIN THE OAS, A DECISION COLOMBIA DEPLORED BUT WOULD RESPECT. UNFORTUNATELY, LOPEZ SAID, THIS POINT WAS LEFT OUT, AND THE COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED WITHOUT A FINAL CHECK WITH HIM. LOPEZ SAID THAT HE HAD WANTED TO INCLUDE THIS TO LIMIT CASTRO'S CAPACITY TO ATTACK THE OAS MEETING. I SUGGESTED THAT THE RECORD COULD CERTAINLY BE AMENDED BY LIEVANO WHEN HE SPOKE TO THE COUNCIL ON SEPT 19.

2. LOPEZ SAID HE HAD ALSO HEARD THAT PANAMA WAS UNHAPPY WITH FACIO'S LEADERSHIP ON THIS ISSUE AND SURPRISED THAT COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA LET COSTA RICA TAKE THE LEAD. HE THOUGHT THAT PERHAPS PITTY'S CONVOKING OF THE COUNCIL TODAY MAY HAVE BEEN AN ATTEMPT TO TAKE OVER SOME OF THE "LEADERSHIP" ON THIS ISSUE.

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3. LOPEZ THEN ASKED WHAT HAPPENS IF THE OAS DOES NOT VOTE TO

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REMOVE SANCTIONS. I SAID I ASSUMED THAT SOME COUNTRIES WOULD THEN GO AHEAD AND ACT UNILATERALLY. LOPEZ WAS VERY PENSIVE ON THIS POINT, SIMPLY NODDED AND THEN SAID THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY WRECK THE OAS. I THINK HE WAS PROBABLY SAYING IN HIS USUAL MANNER OF INDIRECTION THAT IN HIS VIEW ANY ALTERNATIVE TO THE OAS' LIFTING OF SANCTIONS WOULD BE WORSE AND PERHAPS FATAL TO THE INSTITUTION, AND THE US SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT.
VAKY

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NNN

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